STATE SENATOR - DEBORAH CHERRY - 26TH DISTRICT

erry Press Release

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SENATOR CHERRY RECOGNIZES 'PUT THE BRAKES ON **FATALITIES' DAY**

(LANSING)—October 10, 2003 is 'Put the Brakes on Fatalities' day in Michigan. The resolution recognizing the initiate was sponsored in the state legislature by Senator Deb Cherry (D-Burton).

"Put the Brakes on Fatalities day promotes safer driving behaviors, safer driving environments and safer vehicles," said Cherry. "There were over 1,200 fatalities caused by traffic crashes in Michigan in 2002. I am hopeful that by creating awareness of these statistics, drivers will take a moment to think about the importance of safe and responsible driving. We need to drive like our lives and the lives of our loved ones depend on it, because they do."

The first annual 'Put the Brakes on Fatalities' day was held on October 10, 2001. The goal is to deliver message to the public about the major causes of transportation fatalities – chiefly highway fatalities – and their avoidance. A number of national organizations support this annual event, including the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE), the U.S Department of Transportation, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, the Roadway Safety Foundation, the American Automobile Association (AAA), the 3M Corporation, and many others.

"There are over seven million licensed drivers in Michigan," said Cherry. "We can all reduce the chances of being in an accident by obeying posted speed limits and slowing down in bad weather. We can protect our families by buckling up and using appropriate child safety seats. Seemingly small measures can make a big difference."

Senator Cherry is a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, and is Minority Vice Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, and the subcommittee on Community Health.